

**From:** [Scott Couch](#)  
**To:** [sarah@ccwi.org](mailto:sarah@ccwi.org);  
**CC:** [Billington, Tracie; Jeffrey Albrecht; Shahla Farahnak](#);  
**Subject:** Re: Protest of prop 50 funds in Monte Rio  
**Date:** Friday, December 08, 2006 4:51:06 PM  
**Attachments:**

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Thank you for your comments. They will be taken into consideration.

Scott B. Couch, P.G.  
State Water Board - Div. of Financial Assistance  
1001 "I" Street, 16th Fl., Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-341-5658, [scouch@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:scouch@waterboards.ca.gov)

>>> "Sarah " <[sarah@ccwi.org](mailto:sarah@ccwi.org)> 12/8/2006 1:35 PM >>>  
Mr.Scott Couch:

I ask that the \$3.5M that has been requested for the Monte Rio Sewer Project be denied. The sewer option has not gained acceptance in the community, and alternative options to the sewer project have not been considered properly. There is insufficient knowledge of contamination from septic in Monte Rio. Centralized sewers in the area, including Occidental, Healdsburg and Santa Rosa's sewer plants, are plagued with compliance issues which will only increase as environmental and public health laws strengthen. Installing composting toilets or fixing and upgrading aging septic systems are viable options which need more serious inquiry. Its time that we think outside the box in waste disposal, centralized sewers are simply not always appropriate. This is a small community which will likely not be able to cover the cost of properly treated water in the coming decade as emerging contaminants make their mark. I have seen an entire urban apartment building handle all waste on site, totally negating the need for expensive, leak prone secondary treatment with disposal to our precious watershed.

I urge you, this project is not ready to move forward, I ask for further studies and better consensus with the community before funding is

released.

Thank You,

Sarah Shaeffer, MPH  
Program Director  
Community Clean Water Institute  
[www.ccwi.org](http://www.ccwi.org)  
[sarah@ccwi.org](mailto:sarah@ccwi.org)  
707-824-4370